

Smoke Signal

BURNT FACTORY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JANUARY 2018 CHURCH NEWSLETTER
STEPHENSON, VA 22656
C. STEVEN MELESTER, PASTOR

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

*"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND PRAISE YOUR
FATHER IN HEAVEN."* ~MATTHEW 5:16

Our Pastor's New Years Message

Ten years ago, I read a book that changed my life in regard to the practice of ministry. It was written by a United Methodist Bishop, Rev. Robert Schnase and was entitled, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." For the last ten years, the practices outlined in the book have served to undergird, solidify, and provide direction for Burnt Factory UMC and its many ministry initiatives

Like Bishop Schnase, we at BFUMC believe people are looking for churches that demonstrate these practices. The five practices of fruitful congregations are: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission & Service and Extravagant Generosity. *"By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These five practices capture the core process by which God uses congregations to make disciples."*

- Congregations offer the gracious invitation, welcome, and hospitality of Christ so that people experience a sense of belonging;
- God shapes souls and changes minds through worship, creating a desire to grow closer to Christ;
- God's Spirit nurtures people and matures faith through learning in community;
- With increased spiritual maturity, people discern God's call to help others through mission and service;
- God inspires people to give generously of themselves so that others can receive the grace they have known.

"These practices not only describe the congregational activities through which God works to draw people into relationship, they also chart the path for growth in personal discipleship. Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations are that naturally practicing these qualities and constantly seek ways to develop them further."

As we embark on our Stewardship program for 2018, I thought it appropriate to remind you of these five practices and to particularly draw your attention to the fifth practice. I have been so thankful and blessed to be in partnership with a faith community that does, indeed, practice extravagant generosity! This congregation continues to amaze and astound me with your sacrificial giving! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your steadfast faithfulness in supporting the ministries of BFUMC --- but more than that --- thank you for answering God's call upon your heart to be obedient to God's word!

"Churches that model Extravagant Generosity give joyously, generously, and consistently in ways that enrich the souls of members and strengthen the ministries of the church. These congregations thrive because they give out of their love for God and neighbor. They focus on the abundance of God's grace and emphasize the Christian's need to give rather than the churches need for money. This is done in the spirit and manner of Christ."

As we embark on our Stewardship & EGI programs for 2018, I want to encourage you, first and foremost, to pray and discern what God is calling you to give.

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity." 2 Corinthians 9: 11 NRSV

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve*

Stewardship Program & Estimated Giving Initiative (EGI) for 2018

In 2008, Burnt Factory UMC, through the efforts of the Long Range Planning Committee, began dreaming of what the future would hold. God brought to us a vision that growth was coming so we planned and asked many questions and prayed and prayed and prayed some more. To make a long story short, BFUMC decided to enter into a Kingdom Expansion Plan. Our mind-set was formed around the truth that the expansion of our facility would be dedicated to fulfilling the mission of the church, which is: ***"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,"*** so we were not concerned with building a church --- with mortar, bricks and the such --- but with building, in partnership with God, His Kingdom --- with love, faith and hope!

In 2014, we entered into an Estimated Giving Initiative (EGI) to support and finance our endeavor. After much planning, prayer and due diligence, we agreed unanimously, to begin a 1.2 million Kingdom Building expansion project. We redesigned and doubled our sanctuary. We added a Narthex complete with elevator. We added class rooms and outside cottages. We refurbished all existing rooms. We added additional parking spaces and a new septic system. From July of 2015 (when construction began) to September of 2016, (when we re-entered our church) we worshiped at Greenwood Mill Elementary School. I share this with you and especially our newest members and friends, because we will be beginning a debt retirement and future growth campaign in January of 2018. We made a decision in 2014 to plan and pay off our financial responsibility around a nine year goal. We decided to divide those nine years into three separate 3 year EGI commitment drives. The first 3 year EGI was over on the last day of 2017. It was very successful and we only owe approximately \$470,000 on January 1, 2018!

We will be entering into our second three year EGI campaign on January 21, 2018 and asking our congregation and friends to consider how and to what degree they want to participate in our EGI campaign. All the membership, family and friends of BFUMC will be receiving a packet of information detailing our campaign. We will be asking each member, family & friend to consider what God is leading them to give that will be over and above their normal tithe.

My hope, quite frankly, is to satisfy our current debt in the next 3 years, if not sooner, and to actually collect more than we need to help with future goals and further expansion opportunities.

I want to encourage everyone to consider prayerfully and with great discernment where God is leading you. It is not our desire to create a burden and we will not pressure anyone to participate in this initiative. As part of this informational EGI packet, you will receive an EGI card. If God has led you to consider this campaign, then I encourage you to mark the card in the way God has led you, place it in an envelope and either bring it on January 21st to lay upon the altar of the Lord or to mail it to the church, in care of Angie Wiseman, Financial chairperson, P.O. Box 399, Stephenson, Va. 22656.

We will continue to ask, whether you participate in the EGI campaign or not, that you would consider "first-fruit" and "intentional" giving practices (if you do not already adhere to these time honored truths of mature discipleship) in your regular offering. Our Consecration Service will be held on January 21, 2018 where we will celebrate and bring forth our EGI commitments to place them on the Altar of our Lord.

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

*God Bless,
Pastor Steve*

Give
from
the
Heart



United Methodist Women



We had a great, productive, and fun meeting on December 14 at the church. Twenty-five were in attendance – one person came as a guest and is now a member!

Our treasury allowed us to make generous donations to CCAP, The Laurel Center, The Evans Home, Special Love, ARC, Valley Light, and Abba. We also made a sizeable donation to Project Esperanza, which is our primary mission focus right now. Project Esperanza is a Christian, non-denominational Global Ministry for children in the Dominican Republic headed by a local woman, Caitlin McHale Floreal. We have been good stewards of our pledge money and the generous monetary gift from UMM last January.

Debbie Walker was our December program leader, reminding us of Gifts of Love and giving everyone a towel that we can use for many works of goodness. Our gracious hostesses were Jani Shope, Diann and Doris Duvall. We sent cards to several of our members who don't get to attend very often. We voted for Jani to take charge of providing some sandwiches, etc. to those who stayed at the church for both Christmas Eve evening services, mainly the staff and the choir. We wanted to show our thanks to those who are very committed to providing worship in word and music.

Prayer Partner names were revealed and new ones drawn. Only the names of the ones who had expressed an interest in participating in it this coming year were drawn. It's a great way to remember your partner for her birthday, anniversary, special events and holidays – and mainly pray for them throughout the year.

We also had a gift exchange among the members. This took place during the reading of a story about "The Wright Family." Had to pay attention!!

Missionary names were given along with some Russian Tea to everyone. Their e-mail address along with their birthday was provided. Hopefully, you will pray for them and send them an e-mail message on their birthday.

Please continue to cut out the cancelled stamps, leaving just ¼ inch border. Put them in the lavender box in the Social Hall. It's amazing what good they do! Also, Boxtops for Education should be saved.

Our next meeting will not be until February 15 with Donna Gallagher and Debbie Walker as hostesses. Doris Duvall will have the Call to Prayer program.

If you haven't been to a meeting for awhile, February will be a great time to jump back in and be a regular. If you would like to join us as a new member, please come! We only meet six times a year, but almost always have something of interest going on. We do good works and have fun doing it! Don't miss out!!

Blessings to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Polly Duvall, president



One of the wonderful things about each New Year is that it brings with it a sense of a new beginning, 365 days of promise and possibility.

As a United Methodist church member, parting with some things for a season, may help declutter your spiritual life. Doing so helps make room for a new movement of the Holy Spirit in the months to come. What might you set aside in the next year?

UNITED METHODIST MEN ARTICLE CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.....

UNITED METHODIST MEN ARTICLE CONTINUES.....

John Wesley instructed his pastors to “*Never trifle away time*” (**2012 DISCIPLINE** 330.5.d.19.a). Instead, they were to be engaged in the practice of ministry or the development of their spiritual lives. While we may not want to get rid of *all* time-wasters since we need times of rest, there are diversions we could remove and replace with something more beneficial.

Consider finding ways to free up time to volunteer at a local food bank or other mission, to make regular calls to old friends and church members you no longer see, or join a class or small group at your church.

A VERSION OF THE BIBLE

If you have been a Christian for some time, you probably know the Bible fairly well. There are verses you know by heart, and stories that are very familiar. Reading from a different **VERSION OF THE BIBLE** can help bring new life to those passages. A translator’s decision to use one word over another may give you some new insight you hadn’t thought of before.

If you regularly read from a modern version like the Common English Bible, consider a more traditional translation like the New Revised Standard Version. If you gravitate toward the more traditional, try something more modern. Search the web for Bible reading sites and apps (there are many free ones) where you can access a new version of Scripture.

A DEVOTIONAL

Devotionals are helpful aids to lead us in Scripture reading and prayer every day, but we can become stuck in a rut with them as well. If you have been using the same book or website for more than a year, you may benefit from trying something different this year. A new devotional resource, like an unfamiliar Bible translation, can bring new life to your time with God.

There are many devotional helps available online and in physical and digital books. **THE UPPER ROOM** from Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church, is a very good source. Try something new.

A FAVORITE AUTHOR

Many readers have favorite authors. We like the way they turn a phrase, develop a story, or how they put into words what we have thought or felt for some time. Growth, though, often comes from thinking about things from a variety of perspectives. Reading a variety of authors can challenge us to do just that.

When looking for a book to read for spiritual enrichment, from **COKESBURY** or **ABINGDON PRESS**, consider something new to you, which may be something old. You might want to read from a theologian whose work you have heard is important but you have never read, a person on the best-seller list whose views you think may be different from yours, or a recommendation from your pastor.

A CLASS OR GROUP

Give yourself permission to take a break from that class or group you have been attending solely out of habit. It’s OK. Try a new class. **JOIN A GROUP** that discusses things that interest you.

Be careful with this one though. Connections to other people of faith are vital, so don’t pull away from all groups. If you take a break from one group, make sure you find other Christians with whom you can share and from whom you can learn.

NEGATIVITY

Although we do not like to admit it, there are seasons when many of us can fall into patterns of negativity. Discouraged by the news, the theology of others, policies of our denomination, and practices of our congregation can become sources of stress and fodder for complaining.

UNITED METHODIST MEN ARTICLE CONTINUES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.....

UNITED METHODIST MEN ARTICLE CONTINUES.....

REMOVING NEGATIVITY from our lives and choosing instead to find things to celebrate can lift your spirits and renew your passion for that which matters most. Find where you see the love of Jesus in the world and celebrate it.

OBLIGATORY CHURCH-STUFF

Some of us do things in the church that bring us no joy. We're not really sure how we ever got the job. We don't really want it. Yet, we are pretty sure that if we don't do it, it won't get done. Those types of obligations often lead to church burnout.

The New Year is underway, schedule a conversation with your pastor. Ask how you can step away from that obligation and into a new way of using your gifts to serve your church or community. That will be a blessing both to you and your congregation.

NEW POSSIBILITIES

The New Year can be one of new experiences in your church and spiritual life. Make room in days ahead for the Holy Spirit to do a new work in you. Then see what happens.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I pray that you're looking forward to a wonderful new year with lots of possibilities and potential. Do you have a New Year's resolution? Have you given it any thought?

As we join the UMC, we are asked to give our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Will you pray for the church daily? Will you pray that God will show you the work he has for you to do in and through the body of his Son? I believe that God will respond to that prayer by clearly showing you the work that needs to be done to support the church and reach out to the neighbors with the good news that Jesus is with us still today.

Will you be present at your church? One of the trends that we see in church today is that so many people believe that attending once or twice a month is considered a commitment. Christ gave his heavenly glory and his earthly life for our sakes. That's a true commitment. Will you make the same commitment to him? Will you commit to attend church weekly no matter what other worldly business seems more important at the time?

Will you give to your church? God has all the resources he needs to support and uphold his church, but he has given those resources to you to be the stewards of all he has. Will you give back to God a portion of what he's given to you so that the church can have the resources it needs to do God's work?

Will you offer yourself in service to the church? Someone has to do the work. Will you offer yourself to God as one willing to work? Will you serve the church and your community in the name of Christ so that those who have never entered a church can see in your life what it means to believe?

Will you be a witness to all that Christ has done for you? You don't have to have a specific, planned statement to recite to people. You just have to live as if you love Jesus and then, when asked why you live as you do, tell folks that it's because you love Jesus.

God has already provided everything that we need to have a wonderful new year. Now he wants you to give back of your time, your talents, your financial resources, your mind, and your heart so that others see Jesus in and around and through you. Will you do that? Let's resolve to serve Christ and his church in a fresh new way as we enter 2018 and then let's work to keep that resolution for the rest of the year.

Please join us at our next UMM meeting on January 20th at 8:00 AM in the Church Fellowship Hall.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me (540) 207-7404; tamtut@comast.net.

Steve Cunningham
President, Burnt Factory UMMen





1 st	Keith Roberts
2 nd	Iris Sibert
3 rd	Mason Smith
4 th	Noah Swimley Ed Ward
5 th	Karen Lynch David Wales
8 th	Jacob Taylor Derek Bursey
11 th	Jean Wilson Magnolia Murphy
13 th	Bill Shope
15 th	Harrison Fair Jimmy Grayson
21 st	Stephanie Britton
22 nd	Jay Powell
25 th	Hayden Earhart
26 th	Scott Snyder
27 th	Ron Baker Anne Bromley
28 th	Doug Bromley Sharon Clark
29 th	Gary Jenkins Jerry Swimley
30 th	Gail Winter
31 st	Jackie Livengood Jason Wiseman



5 th	Tim & Danette Heinlein
12 th	Roger & Kathy Feight
29 th	Norbert & Donna Bonjo
30 th	Bill & Ruby Beck



Saturday Morning Intentional Prayer

The Intentional Prayer small group is restarting in January and will have its first meeting on Saturday morning, January 13th at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

We typically gather for an hour or less every two or three weeks to pray specifically for the needs of our Burnt Factory congregation.

Then we divide up these concerns and pray for them individually until our next meeting.

This is a wonderful time of sharing concerns and heartfelt intercession. Please consider joining us in the New Year!

If you have questions, contact Kathy Dixon
at 703-407-2441.

CCAP, the Congregational-Community Action Project, is a cooperative ministry of 45 area churches and one synagogue serving Winchester and Frederick County that have joined together to provide financial, material and supportive assistance to people in need. CCAP is located at 112 and 106 S. Kent Street.



- 1) Our first CCAP Day for 2018 is on Sunday, January 21. The Outreach Committee is collecting socks and long underwear for men. Donations can be left in the CCAP Bin on Sunday, January 14 and January 21.
- 2) Outreach will continue our monthly lunch ministry at CCAP in 2018. On the third Sunday of each month, we will serve lunch to the homeless clients at CCAP. We usually serve from 12:30 to 1:30. In the past, we have been blessed to serve anywhere from 25 to 35 clients. Each time, we as servers have been rewarded for reaching out to those in need. If you would like to serve on one of these Sundays or would like to provide food, please contact me. We would love to have new volunteers in this ministry.

Any questions, please contact Patty Leonard at 540-664-6973 or ricpat5@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued service to CCAP.

Happy New Year, Patty Leonard



The Family of Burnt Factory wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to the following families whose loved ones have gone on to the promise of the resurrection.

TO: Billy & Sue Swimley & Family and E. Bruce & Janie Clevenger & Family in the passing of Sue & Bruce's brother, John "Johnny" Marshall Clevenger.

TO: Mary Dodson & Dan & Judy Cunningham & Family in the passing of Mary's husband & Judy's father, James Moffett "Jimmie" Dodson.

TO: Wayne & Brenda Drumheller & Family in the passing Brenda's Uncle, Charlie Wilson.

TO: The White Family in the passing of Micki White's son, Tony.

TO: Rick McClinton & Family in the passing his Grandmother, Celia McClinton.

TO: The Bowman Family in the passing of Kathryn Bowman.

TO: Ryan & Kari Reed & Family in the passing of Ryan's mother, Carolyn Reed.

TO: Richard & Bonnie Henry & Family in the passing of Richard's brother, Raymond.

Prayers of Peace & Comfort are lifted up for all of you!

HAVE YOU GIVEN YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO KEITH ROBERTS, YET?



Pastor Steve has special notices he needs to send to those who attend Burnt Factory. The notices will include not only prayer concerns, but also schedule changes during bad weather.

Keith keeps an e-mail list in his computer for just such purposes. Your e-mail address is protected and e-mails are sent, recipients not disclosed, to protect your privacy.

Kindly send your e-mail address to Keith Roberts at john.k.roberts@comcast.net with the message:

"ADD ME TO THE CHURCH EMAIL LIST"

Thank You

Outreach Missions for 2017

- BF Food Pantry – 20 deliveries plus surplus food to Evans Home
- Pickup food at Highland Food Pantry and deliver monthly to Budget Motel
- Mission trip
- Assisting Freemont Nursery with their backpack program
- WATTS – housed and fed 35 homeless men and women for 7 nights
- Greenwood Mill Elementary School one on one tutoring and Starfish Mentoring program
- Bell ringing for Salvation Army (the kettle was overflowing)
- Christmas meals for social services and two families at Greenwood Mill Elem. School
- Collections for Laurel Center – various items were collected in February, May, August and November
- CCAP: (approximate donation value of below items \$5,719)



Served homemade chili to approximately 100 people in January

44 Easter baskets for children

2154 diapers collected at Maundy Thursday Service

School supplies collected in July

Lunches served at CCAP the third Sunday in September, October, November and December

16 complete Thanksgiving dinners for Thanksgiving giveaway

Various clothing items collected in January and October

38 blankets, 2685 diapers and 2152 wipes were collected at the Thanksgiving Eve service

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR BURNT FACTORY FAMILY FOR THIS AMAZING LIST!

We are the hands and feet of Christ.

Let's listen for the call to serve in 2018 and answer the call.

Karen Willis, Outreach Chair

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ADDITION TO YOUR FAMILY!!!!

BRANTLEY WOLF NEFF



It's A Boy!

*appeared on the scene on Thursday, December 21st to
the Happy Parents, Beth and Matt Neff.*

I'm sure Milly Hood is also very happy with a third grandchild!

I'm sure brothers, Jay and Colby are super happy 'cause of a new baby brother!

2017 BURNT FACTORY UMC

BFUMCW MEMBER

CHOSE

Baker, Jo Anne	Anne Kackley
Beck, Ruby	Harriett Hanke
Burke, Debbie	Donna Gallagher
Croll, Penny	Kristi Rodgers
Dennis, Becky	Angela Renner
Duvall, Diann	Sue Swimley
Duvall, Doris	Amy Shepley
Duvall, Liz	Anne Perrault
Duvall, Norma	Jani Shope
Duvall, Polly	Melanie Melester
Feight, Kathy	Theresa Gilbert
Gallagher, Donna	Amy Murphy
Gerometta, Susie	Debbie Burke
Gilbert, Theresa	Shelly Snider
Goode, Allie	Diann Duvall
Hanke, Harriett	Beth Kerns
Hulver, Nancy	Darlene Morrison
Kackley, Anne	Kathy Feight
Kerns, Beth	Karen Lynch
Knight, Debbie	Cindy Miiller
Knight, Dolores	Rachel Hayton
Livengood, Betty	Norma Duvall
Ludtke, Martha	Angela Wiseman

BFUMCW MEMBER

CHOSE

Lynch, Karen	Penny Croll
Melester, Melanie	Diana Smith
Miiller, Cindy	Karen Swisher
Moss, Debbie	Nancy Hulver
Perrault, Anne	Martha Ludtke
Perry, Pat	Charly Winter
Robinson, Sue	Debbie Knight
Robinson, Sue	Susie Gerometta
Robinson, Sue	Helen Weir
Robinson, Sue	Ruby Beck
Rodgers, Kristi	Margie Willis
Shepley, Amy	Becky Dennis
Shope, Jani	Helen Shriver
Smith, Diana	Pat Perry
Swimley, Sue	Doris Duvall
Swisher, Karen	Debbie Moss
Thomas, Audrey	Polly Duvall
Weir, Helen	Betty Livengood
Willis, Donna	Dolores Knight
Willis, Margie	Jo Anne Baker
Winter, Charly	Liz Duvall
Wiseman, Angie	Audrey Thomas

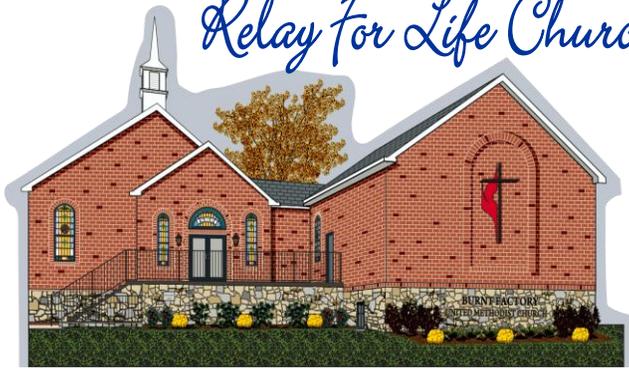
Hello Everyone,

Our next Book Club meeting will be held on Monday January 8th. The book we selected was Unlocked. Please plan on attending even if you didn't get a chance to finish the book we love having a good discussion about the book or not. We meet to fellowship with one another and have fun. Our meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at our home 115 Julee Drive, Winchester. If you have any questions, please call me at 667-2103. May you all have a blessed New Year. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Joy and Peace, Susie Gerometta



Relay For Life Church Wooden Replicas For Sale



The Relay for Life team was so excited to receive the wooden replicas of the church two Sundays before Christmas. Sales were brisk as everyone was impressed with how beautiful they turned out. If you didn't get a chance to see them in person, the pictures show what the front and back (which gives a history of the church) look like.

We are happy to report that 100 replicas were ordered and 79 were sold in just two weeks. If you didn't have a chance to purchase one before Christmas we still have 21 left. They sell for \$25 each (\$9 of each purchase qualifies for a tax deduction). Please see or email the following if you are interested in making a purchase:

Jo Anne Baker jabaker43@verizon.net
Theresa Gilbert tgilbert@afpdocs.com
Brenda Drumheller wngirls@gmail.com

**REPLICAS ARE BEAUTIFUL SITTING ON A WINDOW SILL,
ABOVE THE WINDOW ON THE TRIM, ON A DOORWAY
TRIM, OR ON A TABLE/SHELF.**

If you ever have any questions about Relay for Life, feel free to email Brenda at wngirls@gmail.com or Theresa at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or grab one of us after church.

Theresa Gilbert and Brenda Drumheller
Co-captains

Walk to Emmaus Members Meeting ~ Thursday, January 11, 2018 ~ 7:00pm ~ Social Hall

ALL GRADUATES OF WALK TO EMMAUS RETREATS ARE INVITED TO MEET WITH US AT A WALK TO EMMAUS RECEPTION ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 11 AT 7:00 PM IN OUR SOCIAL HALL. WE WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING:

- TESTIMONIES BY ATTENDEES AT RECENT RETREATS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES AND THEIR TAKE AWAYS ON WHAT THEY LEARNED ABOUT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THEIR EXPERIENCES AT THE RETREAT, AND WHAT GOD WANTS THEM TO DO FOR HIM.
- OTHER MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND WHAT GOD WANTS THEM TO DO FOR HIM.
- THE PURPOSE OF REUNION GROUPS AND WHEN MEMBERS WANT TO MEET. WE WILL HAVE THREE TYPES OF REUNION GROUPS: ALL MEN, ALL WOMEN, AND MIXED GROUPS.
- SPONSORING OF OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS FOR FUTURE MEN'S WALK ON MAY 10-13, AND WOMEN'S WALK ON MAY 17-20 AT THE 4H CENTER IN FRONT ROYAL, VA.

WE WILL ALSO DISCUSS WHAT MONTHLY AREA GROUP GATHERINGS ARE ALL ABOUT WHERE WE GET TO SOCIALIZE AND ATTEND SERVICES WITH OTHER LOUDOUN VALLEY WALK TO EMMAUS MEMBERS. WE WILL HAVE TEAMS FROM DUNCAN UMC IN BERRYVILLE, VA AND PENDER UMC IN FAIRFAX, VA (WHERE JAY HANKE IS THE PASTOR) TO JOIN US AND DISCUSS HOW THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO HAVE SUCCESSFUL WALK TO EMMAUS PROGRAMS.

JOSH MORIMOTO, CELL: 703-967-8679, EMAIL: JOSHINDEL@COMCAST.NET.

SUE MORIMOTO, CELL: 443-880-0987, EMAIL: SMORI01@COMCAST.NET.

WALK TO EMMAUS INVITATION TO CHURCH MEMBERS ARTICLE ON NEXT PAGE~~~~~

Walk to Emmaus ~ Invitation to Church Members ~ Tuesday, January 16, 2018 ~ 7:00pm

All members of Burnt Factory UMC are invited to a church-wide meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7 pm to learn about what the Walk to Emmaus Program is all about.

WALK TO EMMAUS provides inspiration, challenges, and equips leaders for Christian action in their homes, places of work, and communities.

PARTICIPANTS ARE PEOPLE WHO SEEK:

- 1. To Strengthen their Spiritual Life**
- 2. To Further Understand God's grace and love**
- 3. Are willing to dedicate their everyday life to God; become leaders in the church organization and/or small groups**
- 4. To sing, reflect, pray, worship, learn, participate in small groups, experience God's grace in the Community and World, and understand Christian love in action**

We will have testimonies from church members who have just gone on their Walk to Emmaus Retreats. You also can meet the church's Walk to Emmaus members who can sponsor church members to attend these retreats.

The **WALK TO EMMAUS** seeks to send participants to the Loudoun Valley Retreat to two walks in the Spring, 2018.

- 1. Men's Walk LV87 – May 10-13, 2018**
- 2. Women's Walk LV88 – May 17-20, 2018**

THESE RETREATS WILL BE HELD AT THE 4H CENTER IN FRONT ROYAL, VA.

We will then form Reunion Groups after the Walk to discuss our growth in Christ, and our accomplishments in serving Christ. We have a UMC Survey to help you discover your interest and Gifts that God had given you. We can help you pray to God to discern what he wants you to do for him. Loudoun Valley Emmaus has monthly gatherings at various churches so you can worship and share your Agape for God with others.

Please join us at this church-wide meeting.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get individuals closer to learn about Agape Love to others, and motivate church members to attend these two retreats, and watch them Grow in Christ as they return.

Loudoun Valley Walk to Emmaus
Josh Morimoto, Cell 703-967-8679
Email: Joshindel@comcast.net
Sue Morimoto Cell: 443-880-0987
Email: smori01@comcast.net



Youth In Action!!!!



Great job, Youth - rallying through the snow on December 9th to put together stockings for the Salvation Army. Thank you for your contribution - putting in time and your own money. Special thanks to Denise, Scott, Crystalyn and Debbie for being great guides (chaperones)!



29 of our Youth celebrated the season and the closing of 2017 with some reindeer games, cookies and presents. Thanks to all, especially Tammy, Joy and David, for a great memory. God is doing great things (like fried chicken).

Upcoming Youth Events:

Sunday, January 14 th	Regular Meeting	4:30 – 6:30	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, January 27 th	Motel Ministry	9:30 – 1:00	Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 9th/ Saturday 10th Youth Retreat (all ages)
5:30pm – 8:00pm (Saturday)

Swank Building, Camp Overlook

\$20 per person, Bring money for dinner Friday night and "Cook-out" Lunch

Last day to sign-up is January 28th

Sunday, February 25th Skyline Paintball 1:00 – 6:00pm

\$25 per person, Last day to sign-up is February 11th

Leave after church, pack a lunch, old clothes and a sheet/towel as bus seat protector.

Contact Mr. Rob: ram288@comcast.net, 540-303-7161





Library News - Winter - 2018



Come browse in a **Winter Wonderland of Books** in our church library. It's time to sit by the fire, put your feet up and relax with a good book or Bible Study after all the hustle and bustle of Christmas. There are many, many titles to choose from, whether you like fiction, books on Christian Living, Bible Studies, Biographies or books for your children. You may enjoy some of these **new books** that have just been added to the shelves. All of them are **rated 5 Stars by Christianbook.com**.

- Children's Section: *The Cooper Kids Adventure Series* (for ages 8-12) by Frank Peretti
 - Book 1 – *The Door in the Dragon's Throat*
 - Book 2 – *Escape from the Aquarius*
 - Book 3 – *The Tombs of Anak*
 - Book 4 – *Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea*
- Adult Fiction
 - *Long Way Home* – by Charles Martin - A radical retelling of the prodigal son story, that takes you from tent revivals to the Ryman auditorium and the tender relationship between a broken man and his father.
 - *Dangerous Illusions* – by Irene Hannon (Best Selling Author of *Men of Valor*)
- Marriage and Family and Tween:
 - *The Dude's Guide to Marriage* – Ten Skills for Husbands by Darrin and Amy Patrick
 - *A Boy's Guide to Making Really Good Choices* - (Youth nonfiction) by Jim George
- Christian Living and Inspiration:
 - *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado
 - *Storm Sisters – Friends Through All Seasons* by Afton Rorvik
- Religious Persecution:
 - *Persecuted* – The Global Assault on Christians by Paul Marshall, Lela Gilbert and Nina Shea. This book offers a glimpse at the modern-day life of Christians worldwide.
- Bible Study:
 - *The Story of Heaven* – DVD and Study Guide by Max Lucado and Randy Freeze

There have been requests to know what **Bible Studies** are available in the library. This is just a partial list but some have multiple copies for a small group study.

- ❖ *Solve* – by Talbot Davis – Finding God's Solutions in a World of Problems
- ❖ *Restored* – by Tom Berlin – Finding Redemption in Our Mess
- ❖ *Living Fully – Dying Well* – Reuben Job (3 books)
- ❖ *Celebration of Discipline -The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster (6 books)
- ❖ Adam Hamilton studies:
 - *Enough – Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity* – (3 books and DVD)
 - *Half Truths* – a look at common Christian Sayings – (2 books)
 - *Moses* – In the Footsteps of a Reluctant Prophet
 - *Creed* – Exploring the Apostles Creed
 - *Revival* – Faith as Wesley Lived It
 - *Final Words from the Cross* - (3 books)
 - *John* – The Gospel of Light and Life (Lent Bible Study) – Leader's Guide, DVD- (2 books)
 - *The Call* - The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul – (4 books)
 - *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go* – (4 books)
- ❖ *Agents of Babylon* by David Jeremiah – what the prophecies of Daniel tell us about the end of days.
- ❖ *7 Days Until Christ Returns* – by David Jeremiah – 7 Step Action plan to prepare for the Rapture.

Doris Duvall Church Librarian

Faith and Health Corner

January 2018

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

**Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness.
Early detection is vital to stopping the progression of the disease.**

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. For this reason, it is called "the sneak thief of sight." There are no symptoms and once vision is lost, it's permanent.

The vision loss begins with peripheral or side vision, so if you have glaucoma, you may not notice anything until significant vision is lost. As much as 40% of vision can be lost without noticing that it's gone!! The most common forms of glaucoma primarily affect the middle-aged and elderly, but it can affect people of all ages.

The loss of vision is caused by damage to the optic nerve. This nerve is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain. There is no cure for glaucoma-yet. However, medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss. The appropriate treatment depends upon the type of glaucoma.

There are two main types of glaucoma and these are marked by an increase in intraocular pressure (pressure in the eye):

1. Primary open-angle glaucoma
2. Angle-closure glaucoma

When optic nerve damage occurs despite a normal intraocular pressure, this is called normal tension glaucoma. Secondary glaucoma means that another disease caused or contributed to increased eye pressure, resulting in optic nerve damage and vision loss.

Glaucoma is 6 to 8 times more common in African Americans and Latinos than Caucasians. Also, siblings of persons diagnosed with glaucoma have a significantly increased risk of having glaucoma. Currently more than 3 million Americans, and over 60 million people worldwide have glaucoma. The World Health Organization estimates that 4.5 million people worldwide are blind due to glaucoma.

There is a possibility for an impending epidemic of blindness if we don't raise awareness about the importance of regular eye examinations to preserve vision. Here are three ways you can help raise glaucoma awareness:

1. If you have glaucoma, don't keep it a secret. Let your family and friends know.
2. Visit the glaucoma website, www.glaucoma.org
3. Share information about glaucoma with your friends and family

*Until the next time ... Blessings to you and yours,
Theresa*

You can reach me at any time by e-mail at tgilbert@afpdocs.com or theresa.h.seddon@gmail.com or by phone at (540) 247-5612

As your Faith Community Nurse, I am here to serve as a bridge to better health, meeting the wholistic healing mission of the church by partnering with the Pastor as a healer of the spirit, mind and body.



From a branch on the Vine,



How do you recognize an invisible God? Our senses are limited – so primitive to the being of God; yet, they are our only tools to grasp His presence. For us, the limitless God accepted limits so that we could know Him. Jesus is the face of God. Through Him, we come to know who God is. In His human condition, we relate to our invisible God.

In his book, Reaching for the Invisible God, Philip Yancey describes the bridge Jesus provides to the Father, *"Does God really want close contact with us? Jesus gave up heaven for it. In person, He reestablished the original link between God and human beings, between seen and unseen worlds."* Continuing; *"God became one of creation's creatures...the God who fills the universe imploded to become a peasant baby who had to learn to walk and talk and dress himself. In the incarnation, Jesus exchanged omniscience for a brain that learned Aramaic; omnipresence for two legs, omnipotence for arms to saw wood. Instead of overseeing a hundred billion galaxies as one, He looked out on the streets of Nazareth and the Judean desert."*

In Emmanuel, God is with us. Do you struggle believing God is with us? Do doubts creep in as to where is God when people are starving, mistreated, forgotten? Or, when tragedy strikes, dreams aborted, lives cut short? In Jesus, we see the character of God. Jesus, part of the God-head, healed the slave of a Roman soldier because he had compassion – as He did to the adulterous woman brought before Him by religious leaders. The leper was cleansed, the hungry were fed, and sight was restored to the blind. None of the miraculous actions were required but provided from a bottomless well of love. God, as revealed in Jesus, suffered pain with whips and thorns, nails and a spear – not because He was protected from pain (He wasn't). He loved us more than the pain, more than the ridicule, more than our ambivalence and disobedience.

A Savior came to save – to be the balm for what this world does to us.

My Jesus is not distant. He is real. Many times, He and I have walked the beach as He did with Peter, hearing my desperate request to be forgiven. And, He provides forgiveness by the human life He knowingly gave up on the cross.

We all wish for better circumstances, more pleasant, pain and worry-free lives, don't we? That is not the world we exist in. Jesus lived in our broken world; yet, He overcame our world and offers us the same.

*Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help. **Hebrews 4:14-16 from The Message***

Come to Jesus. He is not far away. He is here and brings love to you.

My friends, on behalf of my family, we humbly thank you for embracing and uplifting us; inspiring us to be better. Your generosity of spirit is more than financial, more than a touch of kindness. It is the gift of Emmanuel that you have expressed to us. Thank you. May you feel how close and personal God desires to be with you each moment of each day.

In Christ, *Rob*

KID MIN CONNECTION



Happy New Year!



2018 will be Jam Packed full of amazing ministry opportunities! We will restart our Monday night children's choir and worship dance team practices in February! Around Easter we will have an amazing family Bible reading program AND of course we are currently planning our VBS and Summer Camp dates! We have them scheduled on the calendar for VBS-June 17-21 & Summer Camp July 10, 11, 12. Put those dates on your calendars!

January 14-19 I will be attending the International Network of Children's Pastors-CPC 2018 Conference, "Made For This." I hope to glean great ideas for children's ministries, get refreshed through a series of worship opportunities and bring home some fun goodies.

Our wonderful children brought in an amazing \$80 this year in Sunday School and Children's Church offerings and they have voted to donate this to the local SPCA. What an amazing group of children we have! They also participate in Jubilee Soup Kitchen and we are looking for many more ways our children can be in ministry.

I look forward to this New Year and what God has planned for Children's Ministries.

I AM READY!!!

*God Bless,
Carrie Fair—Director of Children's Ministries*



If you would like to receive the monthly church newsletter in your e-mail, just let me know and I'll add you to one of my groups. There are 4 Groups now – 33 people who receive the newsletter via e-mail. All I need is your e-mail address.

*And.....you receive it in **color!** 😊*

Charly

January 2018 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 6:00PM-CHOIR 7:30PM-SONRISE SINGERS	3 9:00AM-1:00PM PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS 3:00PM-NEED JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	4 7:00PM-OUTREACH	5 PRINTING JANUARY NEWSLETTER	6 9:00AM-CHURCH'S NEW YEAR'S FELLOWSHIP PRAYER BREAKFAST AT THE RURITAN
7 BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY 8:30AM-WORSHIP 9:30AM-10:00AM CHILDREN'S MINI-PRAISE & WORSHIP 9:45AM-SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM - WORSHIP 11:00AM - CHILDREN'S CHURCH	8 7:00PM- TRUSTEES - LOWER COTTAGE 7:00PM-BOOK CLUB AT SUSIE GEROMETTA'S	9 6:00PM-CHOIR 7:30PM-SONRISE SINGERS	10 9:00AM-1:00PM PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS 7:00PM-CHURCH COUNCIL SOCIAL HALL	11 7:00PM WALK TO EMMAUS MEMBERS MEETING SOCIAL HALL	12	13 10:00AM-INTENTIONAL PRAYER GROUP SOCIAL HALL
14 HOLY COMMUNION 8:30AM-WORSHIP 9:30AM-10:00AM CHILDREN'S MINI-PRAISE & WORSHIP 9:45AM-SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM - WORSHIP 11:00AM - CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4:30PM-6:30PM-YOUTH MEETING	15	16 6:00PM-CHOIR 7:30PM-SONRISE SINGERS 7:00PM-CHURCH-WIDE WALK TO EMMAUS INFORMATION MEETING	17 9:00AM-1:00PM PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS 7:00PM-WORSHIP COMM.	18	19 12NOON- CCAP MEETING AT THE MAIN CCAP BUILDING	20 8:00AM-UMMEN SOCIAL HALL 7:00PM-WALK TO EMMAUS AREA GATHERING SOCIAL HALL
21 CONSECRATION SUNDAY 8:30AM-WORSHIP 9:30AM-10:00AM CHILDREN'S MINI-PRAISE & WORSHIP 9:45AM-SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM - WORSHIP 11:00AM - CHILDREN'S CHURCH CCAP COLLECTION DAY	22	23 6:00PM-CHOIR 7:30PM-SONRISE SINGERS	24 9:00AM-1:00PM PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS	25	26	27 9:30AM-1:00PM-YOUTH MOTEL MINISTRY SOCIAL HALL
28 8:30AM-WORSHIP 9:30AM-10:00AM CHILDREN'S MINI-PRAISE & WORSHIP 9:45AM-SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00AM - WORSHIP 11:00AM - CHILDREN'S CHURCH	29	30 6:00PM-CHOIR 7:30PM-SONRISE SINGERS	31 9:00AM-1:00PM PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS NEED FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES BY 3:00PM TODAY!	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> FEBRUARY 2nd - PRINTING FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER </div>		

C. Steven Melester, Pastor
Burnt Factory United Methodist Church
1943 Jordan Springs Road
P. O. Box 399
Stephenson, VA 22656
Tele. (540) 667-4993
www.burntfactory.org

Sharma Lewis, Resident Bishop
Virginia Conference
Richmond, Virginia

Larry R. Thompson, Jr., District Superintendent
Winchester, VA 22601
www.winchesterdistrictumc.org

BURNT FACTORY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



2018

Begin
the
Year
with

